

CLAIM LISTING

1. (currently amended) A method for an improved inter-PDSN (Packet Data Serving Node) dormant mode handoff comprising:
 - exchanging, by an Access Network (AN) with a target PDSN, signaling to support an inter-PDSN handoff of a packet data session of a mobile station (MS);
 - establishing, by the AN with the MS, a traffic channel (TCH) to support the inter-PDSN handoff;
 - determining, by the AN, that signaling between the MS and the target PDSN related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed;
 - in response to the determination that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed, releasing, by the AN, the TCH.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling to support the inter-PDSN handoff comprises signaling from the group consisting of an A11-Registration Request and an A11-Registration Reply.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff comprises signaling from one or more of the group of signaling types consisting of point-to-point (PPP) connection establishment signaling and mobile internet protocol (MIP) signaling.
4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein releasing the TCH is performed in response to determining, by the AN, that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed, that the MS has indicated that it does not have data to send after the dormant mode handoff, and that the AN has not received packet data from the MS after completing the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving, by the AN from the MS, an origination message indicating that the MS is requesting a dormant mode handoff and does not have data ready to send;

sending, by the AN to the target PDSN, an indication that a handoff is being performed and the MS does not have data ready to send.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
in response to the determination that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed, releasing, by the AN, a Signaling Connection Control Part (SCCP) connection between the AN and a mobile switching center (MSC).

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed comprises
receiving, by the AN from the target PDSN, an indication that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein determining that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed comprises
receiving, by the AN from the target PDSN, a request to transition the packet data session from an active state to a dormant state.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the indication that the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed is included within an A11-Session Update message.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the indication that the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed is conveyed via a Normal Vendor/Organization Specific Extension (NVSE) of the A11-Session Update message.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, further comprising sending, by the target PDSN to the AN, the indication that the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed, in response to determining, by the target PDSN, that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed and that the target PDSN has not received packet data from the MS or for the MS in addition to the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein sending the indication that the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed is performed in response to determining additionally, by the target PDSN, that the AN has indicated that the MS does not have data ready to send.

13. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving, by the AN from the target PDSN, a timer value for a packet data inactivity timer.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the timer value is received via a message from the group consisting of an A11-Session Update message and an A11-Registration Reply message.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein determining that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed comprises determining, by the AN, that the packet data inactivity timer has expired and that the MS and the target PDSN are no longer exchanging packet data.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising sending, by the target PDSN to the AN, the timer value for a packet data inactivity timer, in response to determining, by the target PDSN, that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed and that the target PDSN has not received packet data from the MS or for the MS in addition to the signaling related to the inter-PDSN handoff.

17. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein sending the timer value is performed in response to determining additionally, by the target PDSN, that the AN has indicated that the MS does not have data ready to send.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising starting, by the AN, an MS-PDSN handoff signaling timer, in response to detecting an inter-PDSN handoff for the MS.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein determining that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed comprises determining, by the AN, that the MS-PDSN handoff signaling timer has expired and that the MS and the target PDSN are no longer exchanging packet data.

20. (currently amended) An Access Network (AN) for facilitating an improved inter-PDSN (Packet Data Serving Node) dormant mode handoff, the AN comprising:

a packet control function (PCF)

adapted to exchange, with a target PDSN, signaling to support an inter-PDSN handoff of a packet data session of a mobile station (MS);

a base station (BS), communicatively coupled to the PCF,

adapted to establish, with the MS, a traffic channel (TCH) to support the inter-PDSN handoff,

adapted to determine that signaling between the MS and the target PDSN related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed, and

adapted to release the TCH, in response to the determination that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed.

21. (currently amended) The AN of claim 20, wherein the BS, as adapted to determine that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed, is adapted to

receive, from the target PDSN via the PCF, an indication that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN related to the inter-PDSN handoff has been completed.

22. (currently amended) The AN of claim 20, wherein the BS is further adapted to receive, from the target PDSN via the PCF, a timer value for a packet data inactivity timer in response to the signaling to support the inter-PDSN handoff exchanged by the PCF with the target PDSN.

23. (currently amended) The AN of claim 22, wherein the BS, as adapted to determine that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed, is adapted to

determine that the packet data inactivity timer has expired.

24. (previously presented) The AN of claim 20, wherein the BS is further adapted to start an MS-PDSN handoff signaling timer, in response to detecting the inter-PDSN handoff for the MS.

25. (currently amended) The AN of claim 24, wherein the BS, as adapted to determine that the signaling between the MS and the target PDSN has been completed, is adapted to

determine that the MS-PDSN handoff signaling timer has expired and that the MS and the target PDSN are no longer exchanging packet data.